

## Devotional and Selections

### THY WILL BE DONE.

Yesterday when I said, "Thy will be done,"  
 I knew not what that will of thine would be,  
 What clouds would gather black across my sun,  
 What storm and desolation waited me;  
 I knew thy love would give me what was best,  
 And I am glad I could not know the rest.

This morning, praying: "As it is in heaven,  
 I did not dream what heavenly joy would come,  
 Before the purple shadows of the even,  
 To set its seal of blessing on my home.  
 But all day long my watching eye could see  
 The gift of gladness coming near to me.

"Thy will be done," I say. And to the scroll  
 Of unread years, consenting, set my name;  
 Day after day their pages will unroll,  
 In shining words that prove thy love the same,  
 Until my years are gathered into one,  
 Eternal, sanctified, "thy will be done."

### THE SUPREME RICHES.

To every one I would say by all means get money,  
 not to hoard, but to spend, to procure employment,  
 liberty, independence, and above all the power of do-  
 ing good. But he who gets money is not always rich.  
 Many a man is rich without money; thousands of men  
 with nothing in their pockets, and thousands without  
 even a pocket, are rich. A man born with a good con-  
 stitution, a good heart, and a pretty good headpie  
 is rich. Good bones are better than gold, tough mus-  
 cles than silver, and nerves that flash fire and carry  
 energy to every function are better than houses and  
 land. It is better than a landed estate to have had  
 the right kind of a father and mother. Blood is worth  
 more than gold. Think not that

"Money being the common scale,  
 Of things by measure, weight and tale,  
 In all the affairs of Church and State,  
 Is both the balance and the weight."

There are other things than money that make men  
 rich. It is not wealth, but wisdom that makes a man  
 rich; and the most foolish thing in the world is to bow  
 before the wealthy until you can not stand erect in the  
 presence of an honest man.

But wealth is a good thing in its place. It serves  
 the wise man, but governs the fool. It helps the great  
 man to show the greatness of his soul. Give a man  
 brains and riches and he is a king; give him brains  
 without riches and he is a slave; give him riches with-  
 out brains and he is a fool. I sometimes think that  
 it is a wise arrangement that Fortune is blind, for if  
 she could only see some of the worthless persons on  
 whom she showers her most valuable gifts she would  
 immediately scratch her eyes. As Diodorus says:  
 "If thou knowest how to use money it will become thy  
 hand maid, if not, it will become thy master."

If you would acquire the art of getting rich, be hon-

est. The greatest man is he who chooses the right  
 with invincible resolution; who resists the sorest  
 temptations from within and without; who bears the  
 heaviest burdens cheerfully; who is calmest in storms  
 and most fearless under menace and frowns, and  
 whose reliance on truth, on virtue, on God is most un-  
 faltering. An old proverb says: "Riches got by de-  
 ceit cheat no man so much as the getter." Unjust  
 riches curse the man in getting, in keeping and in  
 transmitting; they curse his children in their father's  
 memory. Be honest and you may be lonesome in this  
 world of shams and deceit, but you will be rich in the  
 consciousness of knowing that your hands are not  
 filled with distorted gain, nor stained with the blood of  
 the innocent. You must also be industrious. It would  
 be thought a hard government that would tax its peo-  
 ple one-tenth of their time to be employed in its ser-  
 vice. But idleness taxes many of us much more, if  
 we reckon all that is spent in absolute sloth, or doing  
 of nothing, with that which is spent in idle employ-  
 ments or amusements that amount to nothing. "Dost  
 thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's  
 the stuff life is made of."

You must also be steady, settled and careful. "I  
 never say," says Franklin, "an oft removed tree, nor yet  
 an oft removed family that thrive so well as those that  
 settled be." Want of care does us more damage than  
 want of knowledge. Trusting to others is the ruin of  
 many. In the affairs of this world men are saved, not  
 by faith, but by the want of it. Away also with ex-  
 pensive follies, for what maintains one vice will bring  
 up two children. You may think a little more expen-  
 sive habits will not matter, but remember a little leak  
 will sink a great ship. Many a full dress suit covers  
 an empty stomach. Silks and satins, scarlet and vel-  
 vets put out the kitchen fire.

Then be honest, industrious, virtuous, and whether  
 fortune smiles upon you or not, you will be rich. Mind  
 constitutes the majesty of man, virtue his nobility.  
 He that is good is always great.—Baptist Chronicle.

### THE ENRICHING YEARS.

The poetry of all growing life consists in carrying  
 an oldness into a newness, a past into a future, always.  
 So only can our days possibly be bound "each to each  
 by natural piety." I would not for the world think  
 that twenty years hence I should have ceased to see the  
 things which I see now, and love them still. It would  
 make life wearisome beyond expression if I thought  
 that twenty years hence I should see them just as I  
 see them now, and love them with no deeper love be-  
 cause of other visions of their loveliness. And so there  
 comes this deep and simple rule for any man as he  
 crosses the line dividing one period of his life from  
 another, the same rule which he may use also as he  
 passes through any critical occurrence of his life:  
 Make it a time in which you shall realize your faith,  
 and also in which you shall expect of your faith new  
 and greater things. Take what you believe and are  
 and hold it in your hand with new firmness as you go  
 forward; but as you go, holding it, look on it with  
 continual and confident expectation to see it open into  
 something greater and truer.—Phillips Brooks.